



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67964

Masamoto TAGO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/043,225

Group Art Unit: 2811 ✓

Confirmation No.: 4956

Examiner: Nitin PAREKH

Filed: January 14, 2002

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, MANUFACTURING METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. United States Patent No. 5,902,686, issued May 11, 1999.
2. United States Patent No. 6,184,061, issued February 6, 2001.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, together with a Search Report and Written Opinion, dated October 21, 2003 issued in connection with the counterpart Singapore patent application by the Australian Patent Office as the searching authority for the Singapore Patent Office.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

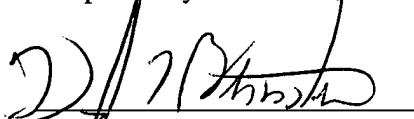
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/043,225

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 2, 2003



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
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|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 10/043,225 |
| Confirmation Number | 4956 |
| Filing Date | January 14, 2002 |
| First Named Inventor | Masamoto TAGO |
| Art Unit | 2811 |
| Examiner Name | Nitin PAREKH |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q67964 |

[illegible][illegible][illegible]**Date Considered**

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.